

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 BIB-01 SAJ-01 AID-05 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00

OMB-01 /088 W

----- 010635

R 141012Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 140

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 6608

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: ETRD, EAID, EFIN, VS, VN, UR

SUBJ: SOVIET AID TO SOUTH VIETNAM; NO PUSH ON "REUNIFICATION"

REF: MOSCOW 5342

1. PRAVDA MAY 13 CARRIES SHORT TASS ANNOUNCEMENT THAT AGREEMENT SIGNED IN MOSCOW MAY 12 ON EXTENSION OF ECONOMIC AID TO "THE POPULATION OF SOUTH VIETNAM" BY THE SOVIET UNION IN 1975. AGREEMENT PROVIDES FOR DELIVERIES OF "OIL PRODUCTS, CHEMICAL FERTILIZERS, TRUCKS AND LIGHT AUTOMOBILES, MEDICINES, FOOD-STUFFS, TEXTILES AND OTHER GOODS." TASS DID NOT INDICATE WHO SIGNED THE AGREEMENT FOR EITHER SIDE.

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2. THIS AGREEMENT FOLLOWS BY NEARLY ON MONTH THE

ANNOUNCEMENT OF UNOFFICIAL SOVIET "MATERIAL" AID TO THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH VIETNAM" "LIBERATED AREAS" (REF A), AND IS MORE SPECIFIC ABOUT THE ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED. IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE THAT--IN THE COURSE OF THIS COMPETITION WITH CHINESE--THE SOVIETS MAY EXTEND A SMALL AMOUNT OF HARD CURRENCY ASSISTANCE TO SOUTH VIETNAM. THIS COULD BE EITHER AN OUTRIGHT GIFT OR LOAN AT CONCESSIONARY RATES. CURRENT SOVIET GOLD AND HARD CURRENCY POSITION WOULD MAKE SUCH A GESTURE RELATIVELY PAINLESS, AND IT WOULD PRESUMABLY EARN MOSCOW A FAVORABLE COMPARISON WITH LESS AFFLUENT PEKING IN THE EYES OF THE VIETNAMESE.

3. THE PRESENT ACCORD IS ALMOST CERTAINLY A GOVERNMENT TO GOVERNMENT AGREEMENT, ON THE PATTERN OF THE TWO SOVIET AGREEMENTS WITH THE PRG IN AUGUST 1973 AND DECEMBER 1974. WE WOULD GUESS, WITH NO SUPPORTING EVIDENCE, THAT THE LACK OF SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO THE SIGNATORIES INDICATES THAT THE "PROVISIONAL" REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT IS IN THE PROCESS OF CHANGING ITS NAME. WE WOULD ALSO GUESS THAT THE QUANTITY OF SOVIET AID UNDER THIS AGREEMENT WILL BE SUBSTANTIALLY LARGER THAN THAT UNDER PREVIOUS ACCORDS. UNLIKE THE EARLIER SOVIET-PRG ACCORDS, THIS ONE APPARENTLY DOES NOT COINCIDE WITH A NEW AID AGREEMENT TO THE DRV, THEREBY UNDERLINING MOSCOW'S INTENT IN DEALING WITH THE NEW REGIME IN SOUTH VIETNAM AS A SEPARATE ENTITY, AT LEAST FOR THE PRESENT.

4. SOVIET TREATMENT OF THE "REUNIFICATION" OF VIETNAM REMAINS UNCHANGED FOLLOWING THE FALL OF SAIGON. BREZHNEV, IN HIS MAY 8 SPEECH, WISHED THE PEOPLE OF VIETNAM "SUCCESSFUL PROGRESS ALONG THE WAY TOWARD NATIONAL UNITY." THIS TERMINOLOGY RECALLS KOSYGIN'S MESSAGE TO PHAN VAN DONG (PRAVDA, JANUARY 30) CALLING FOR THE "GRADUAL MOVEMENT TOWARDS THE PEACEFUL REUNIFICATION OF VIETNAM" (STATE 26495). PRAVDA (MAY 12) REPORTED THAT DRV VICE PREMIER AND FOREIGN MINISTER NGUYEN DUY TRINH MET WITH SUSLOV ON MAY 11 AND LEFT FOR HOME THE SAME DAY. ACCORDING TO THE TASS ITEMS ON HIS CONVERSATION WITH SUSLOV, TRINH STRESSED THE DECISION OF THE LAO DONG PARTY AND THE

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VIETNAMESE PEOPLE "TO BUILD A PEACEFUL, UNITED (YEDINIY), INDEPENDENT, DEMOCRATIC AND PROSPEROUS VIETNAM." THIS APPEARS TO BE STANDARD DRV LANGUAGE. STOESSEL

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**To:** STATE  
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